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24. An oral or dermal medicinal composition containing a pharmaceutical active substance and a thermoplastic coating and binding agent prepared by the method of Claim 15.

Please cancel Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The claims have been amended to a method of coating and binding an oral or thermal medicinal composition by applying a hot-melt of the defined thermoplastic coating and binding agent thereto, and the product resulting therefrom.

REMARKS

This is a division of Application Serial No. 08/603,765, filed February 16, 1996.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17-20 and 21-24 are in the case.

The interview kindly granted by the Examiner, Mr. Sellers, on February 10, 1997 in the parent application is hereby acknowledged with appreciation. Consistent therewith, the application has been refiled to limit the claims to the defined method and resulting product, the nonelected invention in the parent application.

It was pointed out to the Examiner at said interview that the invention to which the claims have now been limited is not obvious from the cited art. The Examiner stated that he will


reconsider his position with regard to the present claims directed to a distinct invention.

Specifically, the references relied upon by the Examiner in the parent application neither disclose, nor make obvious, a method of coating and binding an oral or thermal medicinal composition by applying thereto a thermoplastic coating binding agent as particularly defined in a hot-melt liquid state followed by cooling, whereby the improvements and advantages discussed and shown in the specification are realized.

Accordingly, an action on the merits and allowance of the claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176